

PRIVATIZATION PLAN
FOR BILLINGS ASSESSMENT AND SANCTION CENTER (BASC) PROGRAM

1. A description of the program to be privatized including references to the legal authority under which the program was created:

- A. Description of the program: The Billings Assessment & Sanction Center (BASC) is a 30 bed correctional program for adult female offenders who have been sentenced to the Department of Corrections or who are serving a sanction imposed by a probation and parole hearings officer. The Department currently operates the program in the Women's Prison in Billings. The program was established in 2002 primarily to assist the Department of Corrections to assess the needs of offenders committed to the Department to facilitate a community placement. BASC provides assessment, evaluation and short-term treatment (if treatment will enable the offender to gain a community placement). The program also serves a "holding" function for offenders who have been accepted into a community placement but must wait for the bed to become available. The Department moves these offenders from county jails so they can await the community placement in a lower-cost facility than the county jail presents. Offenders who leave the assessment portion of BASC go either to prerelease, intensive supervision, treatment at Connections or WATCH, the Intensive Challenge Program (boot camp), or to a regular prison bed if the assessment and evaluation staff decides the offender is not suitable for a community placement.
- B. Legal authority under which the program was created: § 46-18-201 that allows judges to sentence offenders to the Department of Corrections; and, § 53-1-202 that says adult corrections services consist of "appropriate community-based programs for the placement, supervision, and rehabilitation of adult felons who meet the criteria developed by the department for placement."
- C. Description of the Privatized Program: The Department of Corrections proposes to merely move this program from the Women's Prison to the Billings prerelease run by Alternatives, Inc. The Department of Corrections proposes to move this program for several reasons:
 - i. To make the program comparable to the men's program that is not now conducted inside the walls of one of the Department's prisons;
 - ii. To free up the 30 beds for females whom the Department needs to incarcerate at the Women's Prison. The facility is over-crowded and this is a positive way to create more bed space.

2. Detailed budget information that includes a list of expenditures for the 2 most recent fiscal years and the sources of revenue for the program:

The expenditures for the BASC program are a shared resource with the Montana Women's Prison. This means the staffing pattern, shared operating

expenditures, such as food service and contracted services are part of the allocation in the general ledger for the total facility. In order to calculate the *approximate estimated* expenditures to run the BASC program we first must determine the total cost to operate the entire women's prison, and then determine the cost to run BASC as a percentage of MWP's total costs.

From July 1, 2005 to February 1, 2006 that cost was \$3,198,347 plus 260,660 for outside medical for a total cost of \$3,459,007. That calculates at \$494,144 per month to run MWP or \$5,929,726 total annual cost.

\$3,459,007 = total cost to run MWP for 7 months.

\$494,144 = cost per month to run MWP

\$5,929,726 annual cost

MWP had a total of 60,183 bed days in 7 months and BASC had 4,095 bed days in those same 7 months so BASC is *approximately* 6.8% of MWP's bed days.

The Department therefore *estimates* that BASC costs 6.8% of \$494,144 or \$33,601 per month for an annual *estimated* cost of \$403,221 per year for BASC.

These expenditures are from the state's general fund and are not offset by any revenue source.

3. A list of all personnel currently employed in the program and the estimated effect of the proposed privatization on the employment status of each employee affected:

Currently, there are 7 personnel who operate the BASC and the Intensive Challenge Program together. They are:

CO Kramer

CO Lusby

Lt. Holland

CO Hust

CO Woepfel

CO Young

CO Kotrc

When the BASC program moves to the prerelease, these employees will still be employed at Montana Women's Prison in the same area where they are currently working. The prison will expand the Intensive Challenge Program to include the 30 beds that BASC had been using.

4. A listing of the assets of the program and their proposed disposition if the plan is implemented;

The BASC program has no assets.

5. An estimate of the cost savings or any additional costs resulting from privatizing the program, compared to the costs of the existing, nonprivatized program. Additional costs must include the estimated cost to the state of inspection, supervision, and monitoring of the proposed privatization and the costs incurred in the discontinuation of such a contract:

Staff from the Community Corrections Division of the Department of Corrections currently oversees the BASC program. The Women's Prison's role currently is merely to provide housing and associated services. The Community Corrections Division will contract with Alternatives, Inc. to pay per diem rates for each female in the BASC program, but the extra offenders who can come into the prison from county jails will offset this. The Department anticipates, therefore, no cost savings or additional cost, but a different allocation in the way in which the costs are accounted.

6. The estimated current and future economic impacts of the implementation of the plan on other state programs, including public assistance programs, unemployment insurance programs, retirement programs, and agency personal services budgets used to pay out accrued vacation and sick leave benefits:

The Department anticipates no economic impact on other state programs since the employees who work in the program will continue to work for the Department in almost the same capacity as they currently work.

7. The estimated increases or decreases in costs and quality of goods or services to the public if the plan is implemented:

As described in #5 above, the Department estimates the contract to provide housing for the BASC inmates will increase; however, there will be a corresponding decrease in the number of bed-days for which the Department must pay county jails for offenders who must wait in county jails to get into the prison.

8. The estimated changes in individual wages and benefits resulting from the proposed privatization:

None. See #3 and #6 above.

9. The ways in which the proposed privatization will deliver the same or better services at a lower cost:

BASC program participants do not need the level of security the Women's Prison now provides. All offenders committed to DOC are deemed by the sentencing judge to be an acceptable candidate for placement in a community correction program. Most of the offenders in the BASC program go on to community placements; they, therefore, do not need the high level of security of the prison. This program as part of the prerelease will provide the necessary level of security in conjunction with the assessment and evaluation services the program needs.

10. A narrative explanation and justification for the proposed privatization.

The Montana Women's Prison (MWP) is overcrowded. One way to gain an additional 30 badly needed beds in the prison is to remove the BASC program from inside the prison walls and move it to a less highly secure facility. That is what the Department proposes. The Billings prerelease, Alternatives, Inc. has purchased Howard Johnson's Motel that is approximately 2 blocks from the Women's Prison and is willing to operate the BASC program at this facility. The prerelease already has an employee who works with the Community Corrections Division to assess and evaluate the offenders in the BASC program and try to gain community placements for these offenders. That will continue.

Respectfully submitted this _____ day of _____, 2006.

BILL SLAUGHTER
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS